

## INFORMATION PAPER

DAMO-SSF

10 Mar 2000

SUBJECT: FAO In-Country Training Program - Philippines

1. **PURPOSE:** To provide a summary of the FAO in-country training program and facilities available in Singapore to assist in selection and preparation of replacement personnel. Projected in-country trainees should use the information provided to contact incumbent trainees and/or FAO supervisor as early as possible for more detailed information.

2. **FACTS:**

a. Summary of Program:

(1) Tour Length: 12 months.

(2) Normal Arrival/Departure Dates: Ideally, arrive January and depart in December of the same year.

(3) Program Description: One or two FAOs per year are attached to USDAO Manila for ICT. The ICT program in the Philippines consists of attendance at local military schools and in-country and regional travel. Thanks to the Philippines' location in the heart of East Asia, FAOs should find it convenient to visit any of the SE Asia countries. There are also many superb sites to visit within the Philippines.

(4) Prerequisites: CPT (P)/MAJ; branch immaterial; Tagalog language, DLPT scores of 2/2/2 (English is common language); no gender restriction.

b. Transportation: POV shipment is authorized and recommended. Mass transit in Manila is unreliable and unsafe. There is no FAO vehicle on site.

c. Household goods: FAOs are authorized full JFTR. Incoming FAOs should coordinate with resident FAOs for recommended items to bring as accompanied and unaccompanied baggage.

d. Housing: FAO receives government-leased housing from the Embassy housing pool. Incoming FAOs should contact resident FAOs and provide household information (number of dependents and any special requirements) at least six months prior to their report date. This will allow resident FAOs time to coordinate necessary housing arrangements.

e. Support Facilities:

(1) Medical: The Embassy Medical Clinic provides routine and non-emergency medical care for officers and dependents. Local medical centers and hospitals are fairly adequate for any emergency (weekend) treatment. All military personnel and family members are covered under Tri-Care for medical purpose. The Embassy does not have a dental clinic. The Embassy Medical Clinic will recommend local dentists if needed.

(2) Dependent Schooling: Available at the Manila International School, a highly regarded primary and secondary institution. School year is Sept through Jun. Incoming FAOs with school age children advise resident FAOs as early as possible as some ages must be placed on waiting list. Embassy students are not guaranteed spaces at the school. For kindergarten and younger, there are numerous excellent pre-schools on the economy. The cost of tuition is comparable to those of the United States.

(3) PX/Commissary: A small commissary is located in the Seafront Complex of the U.S Embassy. All modern conveniences and necessities are available on the economy.

(4) APO: A full service APO is available at the Embassy (Chancery and Seafront Complex). Normal postal regulations for size and weight apply.

g. Rating Chain:

Rater: ARMA

Senior Rater: ARMA

h. FAOs in Training/Programmed:

MAJ Son Luu 9909-0009

CPT Julian Tran 0007-0107

i. Address:

(1) Mail: USDAO, Manila, FPO, AP 96515

(2) Phone: 011-632-833-6848, FAX: 011-632-522-1774 (DAO)

(3) E-mail: [tao@netasia.net](mailto:tao@netasia.net) (FAO), [usdaomanila@netasia.net](mailto:usdaomanila@netasia.net) (DAO)

**3. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

a. Bring: Advanced Course, CAS3, and CGSC materials. ITC provides a good opportunity to complete them and they also serve to keep FAOs current on

U.S doctrine. Recommend FAOs subscribe to Army Times, not only to keep abreast of changes in the Army, but also to use as reference material for school. Most AFP libraries are small and inadequate.

b. FAOs should bring complete array of military uniforms. Suit/coat and tie is required for social functions. Minimum level of dress when working at the Embassy is dress clacks and shirt with tie.

c. Regional Travel Priorities:

- (1) Priority one: Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, and Malaysia
- (2) Priority two: Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Burma
- (3) Priority three: China, Hong Kong, Japan

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